

MINUTES OF MEETING
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MARCH 30, 2006

Members Present: David O'Melia, John Young, Andrew Smith

Others Present: Larry Heath, Robert Bruso

Chairman O'Melia called the meeting to order at 8:30 am in the first floor conference room at the Oneida County Courthouse. He noted that the meeting had been posted in accordance with the WI Open Meeting Laws and that the meeting room is accessible to persons with functional limitations.

The meeting agenda was approved on a motion by Young second Smith and all aye vote.

The minutes of the meetings of February 23 and March 16, 2006 were accepted on a motion by Smith second Young and all aye vote.

The first item to be discussed was having board meetings at night/evening during the summer months. Mr. Smith feels that an evening meeting may attract more participation from the public. O'Melia added that the City of Rhinelander holds evening meetings all year (council and committee). Young questioned if more people would attend and stated that this is a meeting of the board not a public hearing. After more discussion, the committee instructed the Clerk to estimate additional costs of holding evening meetings and report back at the next meeting.

Next, the committee reviewed the topic of required votes needed to adopt a resolution. The committee will advise the Parliamentarian as to the vote requirement.

A code of ethics was then discussed. The committee reviewed the Wood County ordinance. Discussion of issues such as enforcement, penalties, need for an ethics board or committee, make-up of ethics board, penalty for county rule violation vs state statute violation, who would investigate complaints, who should craft ordinance-staff or an outside source. Jack Young stated that the committee should take some action on the issue. David O'Melia made a motion seconded by Young to do nothing at this time. Motion carried.

The committee then discussed how to deal with complaints against department heads. Larry Heath had provided a copy of a Sawyer County ordinance dealing with the subject. After discussion, a motion was made by Smith seconded by Young directing Mr. Heath to add changes as discussed to the Sawyer County ordinance and bring a draft ordinance to the next committee meeting. Motion carried.

The issue of a standard agenda was then discussed. Mr. Smith stated that he doesn't care to see "boiler-plate language" on every agenda from certain committees such as adding the "Badke" language when issues would not warrant county board members attending the meeting and possible misuse of closed session exceptions. O'Melia and Heath stated that there should be guidelines for what should not be on an agenda. The committee will continue the discussion of this item and that of a bidding process at a later date.

The next meeting will 4/13 and, there being no public comment, a motion to adjourn was made by O'Melia seconded by Smith and carried.

David O'Melia

Robert Bruso